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GPO PRESENTS FY 2000 BUDGET REQUEST TO HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

On Wednesday, February 3, 1999, GPO presented its budget request for fiscal year 2000 to the House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations.

GPO is requesting a total of \$128.5 million. The request includes \$82.2 million for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, \$31.2 million for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, and \$15 million to finance extraordinary expenses associated with air conditioning, elevator, and Year 2000 computer improvements.

Not including the funding for capital improvements, GPO's budget request is an increase of 9.4 percent over the level of funding approved by Congress for fiscal year 1999. However, GPO's appropriations have declined by 10.8 percent overall since fiscal year 1995, due to downsizing and increased use of technology.

In presenting GPO's request for congressional printing, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario noted, "The majority of the increase is to cover projected workload increases. After a period of reduced workload in the 105th Congress, we anticipate a return to workload levels more consistent with historical trends during the 106th Congress." DiMario stated that an increase in funding for the Superintendent of Documents is needed to expand *GPO Access*, GPO's award-winning Internet service (at www.access.gpo.gov), to make Government information more available to the public.

Observing that in the past GPO has financed major capital improvements with appropriations to its revolving fund, DiMario discussed the need for appropriations to pay for necessary building improvements and ensuring the compliance of GPO's computer systems with Year 2000 requirements.

DiMario reported to the Subcommittee that GPO completed fiscal year 1998 with positive bottom line results in its finances for the second consecutive year, and that an outside audit of GPO's finances for fiscal year 1997 resulted in a clean audit opinion. He also reported that GPO is acting on approximately 75 percent of all the recommendations contained in a management audit of GPO conducted last year.

The Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation covers the costs of producing the Congressional Record, bills, reports, hearings, documents, and related legislative products. Each year, a substantial volume of this work is requisitioned from GPO. In fiscal year 1998, more than 1.3 billion copy pages of congressional products were produced at an average cost of about 5 cents per page, including all database work, production, and delivery in both conventional and electronic formats. It covers the cost of building congressional information databases for dissemination via *GPO Access*.

The majority of the Superintendent of Documents Salaries and Expenses Appropriation is for the Federal Depository Library Program, under which Government publications are distributed in print, microfiche, or electronic formats to approximately 1,400 libraries nationwide for the free use of the public. It also funds the cataloging and indexing of Government publications, the distribution of Government publications as required by law, and the distribution of U.S. Government publications to foreign libraries which in turn agree to provide copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress. In addition, this appropriation provides the majority of funding for *GPO Access*, through which the public is now retrieving between 10 million and 15 million Government documents each month.

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